DR. L. C. HOLLAND
DENTAL SURGEON
ROOMS 209-210 SECOND FLOOR
NATIONAL BANK OF SUFFOLK BLDG.
PHONE 3561
SUFFOLK, VIRGINIA

June 30" 1953.

Mrs. Mary Roberts Rhinehart -

Dear Mrs. Rhinehart -

Eight or ten years ago Miss Julia Binkley told me that Thompson and Sarah Gilleland - your grand parents - lived out on "the White marsh" road - neighbors of her father and mother, and rest in our Cedar Hill cemetery here in the heart of Suffolk. Cedar Hill is a beautiful spot, well kept and it was my pleasure thirty years ago, when acting as genral superintendent from our City Council, (of which I was a member) to add to its beauty. Miss Julia cared for the Gilleland graves on memorial days and at

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Christmas up to her death about four years ago.

We were both interested in the old families who lived in and near Suffolk, and exchanged memories when she came to my office for dental attention.

The old Whitemarsh road is still here, a highway now. Many have gone who lived on the road which through the years has known sorrow and tragedy, some unsolved, since Geo. Washington rode out of Suffolk on this road to the "Washington Ditch" five miles from Suffolk, which he surveyed in an attempt to drain the great Dismal

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Swamp as an agricultural spot, which was a failure. This ditch ran five miles thrugh the "Dismal Swamp" to Lake Drummond.

A few days ago I made the inclosed picture of the graves of your grand parents. The accumulation of soil around the base of the monuments, through the years, had covered the death dates. This I cleared to get the picture. Thinking you would like to see the spot.

With best Godwishes, I am

Sincerely,

L. C. Holland.

Holland

September 26, 1953.

Doctor L. C. Holland,
National Bank Building,
Suffolk, Virginia.

My dear Doctor Holland:

I have come back from Maine to find here your letter and the photograph of the Gilleland graves. They are undoubtedly my mother's parents, since she was born in the '50s and I recall that she often spoke of the Dismal Swamp. How much she knew of it I do not know, as she was living in Butler, Pennsylvania, when she met my father.

Thank you very much indeed for the trouble you have taken. I am only sorry not to be more useful. The graves were discovered a few years ago by a Mrs. Cheatham, of Washington, who sent me a very inadequate photograph at the time. She was the daughter of the late Bishop Staley of Virginia, and you may possibly have known him.

Cordially,

MRR:wms